

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY: RAISED BILL HB 6034

AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTIES ON SUNDAYS

SUBMITTED BY: EDWARD PARKER

I am writing in support of RHB 6034.

The problems associated with an overabundant population of white-tailed deer (deer vehicle collisions, property and crop damage, tick borne disease and damage to the health and diversity of the forest ecosystem are well documented in Connecticut. These impacts will continue unless more deer are harvested. In order to increase the deer harvest, hunters need more opportunities to hunt on weekend days.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- * Currently, 11 OF 13 deer management zones exceed the population goal of 20 deer per square mile established by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). These 11 zones include 80%(134) of Connecticut's 169 towns. Last year 8 of 13 zones exceeded the population goal.
- * Hunting is the only proven method to reduce the deer population.
- * Hunters take more than twice the number of deer on Saturday than weekdays.
- * Deer hunting on Sunday in 42 other states has proven effective in reducing the deer population.
- * Hunting on private property will not impact the outdoor activities of others because it will very likely occur on property already open for hunting. Hunters must obtain written permission from the landowner. Thus, landowners will decide what activities will occur on their property.
- * Archery hunting is SAFE. There has NEVER BEEN an incident in which a non- hunter has been injured by an archery hunter.
- * Archery hunting is EFFECTIVE. In 2013 and 2014, archery hunters killed more than 50 % of the deer harvested during the hunting season.
- * In a report published by the New York Medical College in 2010 the estimated cost associated with an overabundant deer population in Redding, CT was \$ 4.5 million.

It is time for the General Assembly to resolve the deer problem in Connecticut. The solution is straight forward. Provide the opportunity for archery hunters to harvest more deer and the deer population will decline. Failure to address the overabundant deer population will only exacerbate the current problems that have been documented.

I am therefore requesting that the Environment Committee approve RHB 6034 and strongly advocate that the bill be called for a vote in the House and Senate.